

Application No. 09/928,352
Reply to Office Action of August 9, 2004,
and to the Advisory Action date November 23, 2004

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the following remarks and discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4-7, 18, and 21-32 are currently pending in the application; Claims 2, 18, 21-23, 26, and 27 having been amended, and new dependent Claims 30, 31, and 32 having been added, by way of the present response. Applicants respectfully assert that support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and that therefore no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 2, 18, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication No. 2001-118768 to Suga.

Initially, Applicants express thanks for the Examiner's indication that Claims 4-7 are allowed.

Applicants further express thanks for the Examiner's indication that Claims 22-29 recite allowable subject matter, such that the claims although having been objected to would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, Applicants have so-rewritten Claims 22, 23, 26, and 27. Claims 24, 25, 28, and 29 depend from Claims 23 and 27. Thus, in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of Claims 22-29.

As stated above Claims 2, 18, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Suga. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to sheet feeding apparatuses, image forming apparatuses, and sheet feeding methods. Independent Claims 2 and 18 recite a plurality of driven gears disposed on a cantilever shaft, at least one driven gear having first and second pairs of adjacent teeth of a same set of teeth, the first pair of adjacent teeth separated by a first

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gap and the second pair of adjacent teeth separated by a second gap less than the first gap. A plurality of driving gears is configured to drive the plurality of driven gears. At least one driving gear includes a set of teeth adapted to engage the first and second pairs of adjacent teeth to drive the at least one driven gear. Independent Claim 21 recites feeding sheet media between a feed roller and a reverse roller pressed into contact with the feed roller, the reverse roller adapted to be rotated by a plurality of driven gears driven by a plurality of driving gears. Independent Claim 21 further recites engaging first and second pairs of adjacent teeth of a same set of teeth at least one driven gear with a set of teeth of at least one driving gear, the first pair of adjacent teeth separated by a first gap and the second pair of adjacent teeth separated by a second gap less than the first gap.

Suga is directed to a paper feeding device. Applicants respectfully assert that Suga does not teach or render obvious, however, the claimed features of a plurality of driving gears configured to drive a plurality of driven gear, as recited in independent Claims 1, 18, and 21.

Specifically, independent Claims 2 and 18 recite “a plurality of driving gears configured to drive the plurality of driven gears,” and independent Claim 21 recites “a plurality of driven gears driven by a plurality of driving gears.” Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent Claims 2, 18, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn, and the allowance of independent Claims 2, 18, and 21.

Applicants respectfully assert that new dependent Claims 30-32 are allowable for the same reasons as independent Claims 2, 18, and 21 from which they depend, as well as for their own features. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of new dependent Claims 30-32.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in

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condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 2, 4-7, 18, and 21-32 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

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Respectfully submitted,

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